

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

OCT 12 1988

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Old Town Historic District
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Portions of E. Union, E. Center, E. Washington & Clay not for publication NA
city, town Hartford Streets vicinity NA
state Kentucky code KY county Ohio code 183 zip code 42347

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>18</u>	<u>2</u> buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>19</u>	<u>2</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official *Dwight C. Morgan* Date 10-4-88
State Historic Preservation Officer, Commonwealth of Kentucky
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. *Patrick Andrews* 11/15/88
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic; single dwelling
Commerce/Trade; specialty store
Commerce/Trade; warehouse
Religion; religious structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic; single dwelling
Commerce/Trade; specialty store
Religion; religious structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian
Mid-19th Century
Commercial Style
Bungalow/Craftsman
Late Gothic Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick
walls weatherboard
brick
roof asphalt
other wood porch supports & spandrels

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

According to signs posted at the principal entrances to this county seat, Hartford has a population of approximately "2,000 happy souls and a few soreheads." The town is located on the southeast bank of Rough River a few miles southwest of the center of Ohio County, which is in the eastern end of Kentucky's western coal fields and geographically one of the state's largest counties. Hartford covers approximately 1.8 square miles of gently rolling terrain characteristic of the county overall and is laid out primarily in a somewhat irregular grid interrupted by rural roads at its northern reaches and KY 231, the town's major access, near its southern boundary. Hartford's oldest and most densely developed portion is its western area along the Rough River which continues to display the town's original early nineteenth-century plan in its grid of small square and larger rectangular blocks. Here, a small central business district along Main St. (KY 231) incorporates the courthouse square and is flanked to the northeast and southwest by residential neighborhoods; altogether, these three areas are popularly known as "Old Town." Expansion during the twentieth century occurred to the east, beyond the railroad spur line, in a less regular grid of larger blocks. After World War II, considerable acreage to the north was annexed as that area was developed with subdivisions and small industrial facilities.

Hartford's Old Town Historic District occupies approximately six acres immediately northeast of the central business district. This area and a portion of the CBD are distinguished as the only relatively intact collections of Hartford's historic resources, which elsewhere in town are characterized, with few exceptions, by extensive modern alterations. The Old Town district incorporates 17 primary resources, of which only two are non-contributing, and four ancillary buildings, which altogether depict the range of building types and styles that characterized most of Hartford's nineteenth- and early twentieth-century development. (In addition, four properties have garages and storage buildings that are inconsequential due to small size or heavy screening and therefore are not counted.) Of the primary resources, there are eleven houses, three commercial buildings, one tobacco warehouse, one church, and a building that originated as a school and now serves as a residence (listed in the National Register 1973). Two houses outside the district have been listed individually in the National Register: Hillside (the Pendleton House), listed May 1973, and the Samuel E. Hill House, listed May 1980.

In its heavy foliage and variety of building elevations, setbacks and orientations, the Old Town Historic District retains much of its nineteenth-century ambiance. Unlike the planned sub-divisions more typical of the early twentieth century, most of these building lots platted early in the nineteenth century were

See continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Other: Socio-Economic Development

Significant Person

N/A

Period of Significance

c. 1840 - 1938

c. 1840 - 1938

Significant Dates

NA

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Old Town Historic District in Hartford, Kentucky is significant under National Register Criteria A and C. Under Criterion A the area is important as a reflection of the town's socio-economic development during the mid to late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The Old Town Historic District contains buildings erected as the homes of business and civic leaders as well as laborers, a significant early school, a church built by Ohio County's oldest congregation, a tobacco warehouse, and frame commercial buildings which altogether serve as indicators of Hartford's status as the county's center of mercantile, religious and educational activity. The district also is significant under Criterion C as a collection of relatively intact distinctive and representative examples of many of the building types and architectural styles predominant in Hartford between circa 1840 and 1938.

Hartford developed on land that was part of Gabriel Madison's 4,000-acre grant received from the Commonwealth of Virginia and surveyed in 1782 by James Harrod during his travels up the Green and Rough Rivers. An account written in the early 1800s by a William Smithers relates that he helped build "a fort at Hartford on Rough Creek" in 1782-83 with several other early settlers. According to local tradition, that initial settlement, believed to have been the first permanent one in Ohio County and the entire lower Green River Valley, consisted of a stockade and small log buildings on the bluff above the Rough River now occupied by Hartford's water plant. (Barnett's Station, however, was settled about the same time two miles to the northeast, so there has been some controversy about which actually was the first.) Although many believe the town's name refers to a ford on the Rough River (a large tributary of the Green River then known as Rough Creek), and an early settler who operated a ferry there, the name's origin remains uncertain.

Due to a number of factors, including Indian attacks during the 1790s, settlement of Hartford and Western Kentucky generally proceeded slowly. In 1798, Ohio County was established from portions of Jefferson, Nelson and Hardin counties.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

State historic preservation office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Specify repository:

Kentucky Heritage Council

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property approx. 6 acres

UTM References

A 1,6 5|0,8|2,4,0 4,1|4,4|8,7,0
Zone Easting Northing

C 1,6 5|0,8|4,1,0 4,1|4,4|7,8,0

E 1 6 5 0 8 2 4 0 4 1 4 4 7 5 0

B 1,6 5|0,8|3,3,0 4,1|4,4|8,4,0
Zone Easting Northing

D 1,6 5|0,8|2,8,0 4,1|4,4|6,3,0

F 1 6 5 0 8 1 0 0 4 1 4 4 7 1 0

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

[Note: All block and lot numbers are those shown on the Property Identification Map for the City of Hartford, Ohio County, Kentucky, compiled 4/9/51 and maintained by the Property Valuation Office at the Ohio County Courthouse, Hartford.]

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The verbally described boundary encompasses all of the property associated with the areas and periods of significance for which the Old Town Historic District of Hartford, Kentucky is being nominated to the National Register. Property lying beyond the boundary is omitted because it contains resources that do not meet

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Claudia R. Brown

organization NA

street & number 309 Calvin Road

city or town Raleigh

date July 1988

telephone 919/828-8403

state North Carolina zip code 27605

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1 Old Town Historic District, Hartford, Kentucky

developed at random. While the majority of the resources face the streets, the two antebellum buildings are turned ninety degrees to address narrow alleys. The presence of a steep hill on one side of a street and relatively level ground on the other indicates that the natural terrain was retained with the exception of grading for the fairly narrow streets. Although there are no curbs and gutters, shallow drainage ditches and concrete sidewalks line one side of each street. Most of the properties contain mature shrubbery and hardwoods. Lawns are mowed, but the proliferation of annuals, perennials, and flowering bushes has a natural rather than manicured appearance. The street frontage of the Mauzy-Woerner-Barrass House (entry 17) overlooking the corner of E. Union and Clay Streets is marked by tall masonry retaining walls with large concrete globes flanking sets of concrete steps. In contrast, the wild, overgrown ground cover of other steep hills at the edges of house lots is more typical of country roads than a neighborhood bordering a central business district. This rural, village-like ambiance is most strongly conveyed by four large vegetable gardens and a small apple orchard. Occupying lots designated in the original town plat that were appended to house lots and never developed, these cultivated parcels recall the agricultural basis of Ohio County's nineteenth-century economy.

Architecturally, all of the buildings may be labelled "popular" as simplified renditions of the reigning styles of their respective periods or traditional basic building types sparsely embellished with elements identified with the popular modes. Wood is the predominant building material, used for most of the houses, the warehouse, and all of the commercial buildings; the former school and a house, both antebellum, and the 1914 church are of brick construction, while one circa 1930 house is brick-veneered.

The district's two oldest buildings both are of brick construction and date to around 1840. Built in 1839, the one-story Hartford Seminary (12) exhibits influences of the Greek Revival style in its hipped roof, molded box cornice and dentil prieze board, six-over-six double-hung sash windows, and crown lintels on the E. Center St. elevation. Across the street, the Walker-Pirtle House (16) appears to be the result of two building campaigns. The initial phase of the 1840s yielded a very conservative design in its use of elements of the Federal style that had gained popularity three decades earlier -- Flemish bond brickwork, jack arches at nine-over-six windows, and a fanlight at the main entrance elements of the one-story, one-room-deep house. The 1850s or 1860s addition of a second story in common bond employed the fashionable bracketed hood molds and cornice that epitomized the Italianate mode.

Like the two antebellum brick buildings, the houses erected in the Old Town Historic District between the end of the Civil War and the advent of the twentieth century are simple forms with restrained decoration, albeit of frame construction. Detailing of the one-story, one-room-deep Lawton-Park House (10), believed to have been built in 1868, is concentrated at the main entrance with wide post and lintel

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2 Old Town Historic District, Hartford, Kentucky

trim enframing sidelights and a single door with a patterned pressed glass window. Also on E. Washington St., the Bean House (8) of circa 1905 and the 1891 Barnett-Foster-Leach House (11), the district's only I-houses, are highlighted by turned porch posts. Both built in the 1890s, the Anderson-Tappan House features a Victorian stained glass window in the second story of the entrance bay while the Barnett-Foster-Leach House displays a transom and sidelights at the Victorian panelled front door and a dentil cornice. The one-story Anderson-Tappan House (9) of circa 1895 is the most characteristically Victorian of the district's houses in its asymmetrical configuration, pyramidal-roofed tower sheathed in fishscale shingles and tall windows with modillioned crown lintels.

The tobacco warehouse and three commercial buildings, all on the northeast side of Clay St., were built between 1899 and 1911 and are representative of their respective buildings types executed in wood. The Hartford Tobacco Warehouse (5) of 1899 is typical of a modestly-sized turn-of-the-century tobacco sales building in its broad, low-pitched gable roof, weatherboarded exterior, and shed canopy across the main facade. Two of the three commercial buildings are quite similar in design. Both Likens and Action General Merchandise (1) and Schlemmer Bakery (3) are weatherboarded two-story, gable-front buildings with storefronts featuring recessed central entrances, plate glass display windows, and panelled bulkheads. Schlemmer Bakery has decoratively molded piers flanking the entrance, while Likens and Acton General Merchandise is fronted by a second-story shed porch added at an early date to the original porch across the storefront. Unlike the Likens and Acton store, the one-story Cash Produce House (2) retains its original rectangular false parapet hiding the gable front; its storefront, however, has been radically altered.

Residential and institutional construction throughout the Old Town Historic District and Hartford overall from the 1910s into the 1930s was very much in the mainstream of popular, modestly-scaled architecture. Distinguished by a three-tiered square corner tower, gabled front and transept, and pointed arched stained glass windows, the Neo-Gothic Revival style Hartford Methodist Church (13) is the town's most architecturally distinctive historic church. The tower and massing lend the building an imposing quality, yet its clean lines, simple organization of elements, and restrained decoration are in keeping with the established character of Hartford's built environment. A block away, the Mauzy-Woerner-Barrass House (17) actually was built circa 1860 as a weatherboarded double-pile house and completely remodelled in 1918 as an American Foursquare with Craftsman detailing that includes exposed rafter ends and eave brackets and massive panelled box porch posts on brick plinths. The brick-veneered Methodist Parsonage (14) and the weatherboarded Schapmire House (15), both built in the 1930s, are typical of the economically depressed era in their small scale, simple gabled forms, and allusions to the bungalow mode for a modicum of stylishness. The period's most modest dwellings, usually built for speculative sale or rental to laborers, are represented in the district by the narrow one-story, gable-front frame houses at 213 and 217 Clay St. and the one-story hip-roofed house at 313 Clay St.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 3 Old Town Historic District, Hartford, Kentucky

Most alterations within the district have been made to the domestic buildings. The application of aluminum or vinyl siding to several houses has been restricted to the weatherboards, so that all original detailing has been left exposed. The towered Anderson-Tappan House, the Methodist Parsonage and the Schapmire House remain virtually unaltered, while other houses such as the Barnett-Foster-Leach House underwent early modifications that included replacement of windows and construction of rear additions. The fact that two of the wooden commercial buildings have survived fairly intact is noteworthy in itself.

INVENTORY LIST

1. Likens and Acton General Merchandise. 403 Clay St. M. T. Likens and A. C. Acton had this two-story gable-front building erected in 1911 to house their general merchandise business. The Hartford Herald described it as ". . . one of the largest and best lighted store buildings in Hartford, located near the Beaver Dam pike [now Clay St.] and close to the L & N Depot. . ." As constructed, the 32 x 50 foot building featured a single full-facade storefront with panelled bulkheads and recessed central entrance (today altered only with replacement display windows) and a shed-roofed porch. Above, the three double-hung sash windows were surmounted by a tall, rectangular false parapet front which hid the gabled roof. At an early date, the second-story porch accessed by an exterior staircase was added. Later, the false parapet was removed; in recent years the staircase and an original one-story storage warehouse along the south side were taken down due to deterioration. The interior retains plaster walls and wood flooring at the second level, which has served for several decades (perhaps since construction) as living quarters. A succession of several owners continued to use the building as a general merchandise store and later exclusively as a grocery. Since 1983 it has served as an emporium specializing in local artifacts. (C)
2. Cash Produce House. 321 Clay St. The colorful history of this one-story frame commercial building dates to its construction in 1910 for E. E. Ellis' Cash Produce House. Mr. Ellis bought and shipped poultry, eggs, butter, and hides and was a wholesale and retail dealer in feed, straw, flour, meal and country produce. By paying cash for produce, Ellis cut out commissions to dealers in nearby larger towns and afforded farmers a higher price for their produce, thus creating a strong market in Hartford for area farmers and boosting the local economy. The business continued under a series of owners until the early 1940s when the Nehi Bottling Company operating across the street purchased the building for use as a storage warehouse. Currently it serves as a pawn shop. The one-story frame building consisted originally of a small shop with a feed warehouse to the rear. Although it retains a rectangular false parapet front masking a shed roof, the lower main facade has been altered extensively with modern stucco and a reworking of the fenestration. (NC)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 4 Old Town Historic District, Hartford, Kentucky

3. Schlemmer Bakery. 323 Clay St. Mr. and Mrs. William C. Schlemmer moved to Hartford in 1900 from Tell City, Indiana where he had operated a bakery with his brother. The Schlemmers their Hartford bakery, the town's first successful establishment of its kind, in an existing building (no longer standing) on Union St., which they outgrew within a few years. Around 1910, they had this two-story frame building constructed as their shop and residence. Extremely popular in Hartford, the Schlemmer Bakery also delivered their products to the nearby McHenry mines; their specialty was salt rising bread, delivered daily in a wheel barrow to downtown Hartford. After the Schlemmers retired in the early 1940s, Ercie and Bertha James operated a laundry here for a few years and then G. Wayne White purchased the building for his residence. Recently it has been restored as a mattress outlet and used furniture shop. The weatherboarded building is intact on the exterior except for the early loss of a plain rectangular parapet across the gable. It has one-over-one second-story windows and exposed rafter ends in the front gable and an unaltered storefront featuring panelled bulkheads and decoratively molded piers flanking a recessed entrance of double doors. (C)

Bakery Building. Although this one-story frame building has been altered with replacement siding (particle board on one long side and asphalt "brick" on the other), it retains its original narrow rectangular configuration and shed roof. It was constructed around 1910 as the Schlemmers' baking building and featured ovens at the rear. (C)

4. Ralph-Jones House. 309 Clay St. H. A. Ralph had this dwelling moved to this location from Taylor Mines in south-central Ohio County around 1930, shortly after purchasing the Hartford Tobacco Warehouse next door. The one story frame house with a low hipped roof, central chimney and full-facade recessed porch is said to have been created from two small houses, as suggested by the two solid diagonal board and batten doors centered on the four-bay main facade. Over the years, the lot has been conveyed with the warehouse property and has continued to serve as a residence for the owner of the neighboring business. (C)
5. Hartford Tobacco Warehouse. 313 Clay St. The proportions and large size of this frame gable-front building reflect its original use as a tobacco sales warehouse. It was for G. W. Martin, W. S. Martin and C. T. Shanks shortly after they incorporated as the Hartford Tobacco Warehouse in 1899. Two entrances and a frame shed awning, all apparently original, mark the main facade, which also has two replacement windows in the broad gable. The building is weatherboarded, with double-hung sash windows along its north side and a low shed addition along the south elevation. Corrugated metal covers the roof and the main facade above the canopy. Although it appears from the exterior to be a single tall story with an attic, the building actually has three short levels and a basement at the rear for tobacco storage. In 1917, the company and property were sold to J. B.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 5 Old Town Historic District, Hartford, Kentucky

Westerfield who operated a smoking and chewing tobacco factory as well as two large warehouses in his home town of Fordsville, KY. Within a few years, however, Westerfield sold the Hartford Tobacco Warehouse to Growers Warehousing Corporation of Owensboro, KY, which in turn sold in 1929 it to L. B. Tichenor and H. A. Ralph, who used the building for their blacksmithing business. Tichenor and Ralph later added a grist mill for shelling and grinding corn. In 1939 George P. Jones became sole owner of the business. After Jones' death in 1956, the building passed through a series of owners and today is used as a new and used furniture store. (C)

6. 217 Clay St. This small one-story, gable-front weatherboarded house dating from the first quarter of the 20th century is typical of very modest housing in the area at that time. It is characterized by an interior brick chimney, two-bay main facade and an almost full-facade shed-roofed porch with turned posts. A matchstick porch railing, shed-roofed wing on the south elevation and vinyl siding are recent additions. (NC)
7. 213 Clay St. This small house built around 1930 is a similar but more intact version of its next door neighbor (see entry 6). It is differentiated by a wider, three-bay main facade and the absence of a side addition. (C)
8. Bean House. 212 E. Washington St. Lucy and Thomas J. Morton had this house built around 1905 and two years later sold it to T. R. Barnard, partner in the general merchandise business of Barnard & Co., and his wife. The house again changed ownership before Gertrude and W. J. Bean, owner of Bean Lumber Company, purchased it in 1919. The well-maintained house is significant as a distinctive reminder of the popular domestic architecture characterizing many of Kentucky's small towns early in this century. Gable end chimneys (one interior, one exterior), a five-bay main facade, and an almost full-facade hip-roofed front porch with gabled entrance bay and turned supports distinguish the frame I-House with a rear one-story ell. Decorative elements include the front door with decoratively carved panels and transom above, and small panes of stained glass in the central second-story window and front attic gable, all popular Victorian features. The only alteration to the exterior is the recent application of vinyl siding. The interior is intact, with original flooring, trim and plastered walls. The house remained in the possession of the Beans' heirs until the 1960s. (C)

Garage -- This early 20th-century one-story gable-roofed, weatherboarded building serves as garage and work shop. (C)

9. Anderson-Tappan House. 226 E. Washington St. A small tower renders this one-story T-plan house the most fanciful in the Old Town Historic District. The weatherboarded gable-roofed house with interior brick chimneys has a square

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 6 Old Town Historic District, Hartford, Kentucky

projecting entrance bay in the front, interior angle which rises to a second-story tower with round-arched windows, sheathing of fishscale shingles, and a pyramidal roof. Elsewhere, the windows are very tall, extending almost to the foundation, and have small decorative crown lintels with modillions and double-hung sashes that are two-over-two except for one front window with Victorian stained glass in the upper sash. Slender fluted columns support the porch, which follows the contour of much of the main facade. Shed additions and a one-story gable-roofed wing augment the rear.

Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Anderson had the house built shortly after purchasing the property in 1895. Anderson began his professional career as a newspaperman; he owned and edited the Hartford Republican from 1894 to 1898. In 1897 he was elected Circuit Court Clerk of Ohio County and served for six years. While in that office, he read law and in 1903 was admitted to the bar. He also served as a member of the Hartford City Council and later became president of the U. S. Credit Company of Louisville. The Andersons sold the house in 1913 to Mary and J. P. Jasper, who sold it in 1916 to Ida and J. B. Tappan, a jeweler and optician. Following Tappan's death, his widow married former funeral director and freight line owner E. E. Birkhead and they continued to reside here until their deaths in the early 1940s. (C)

10. Lawton-Park House. 223 E. Washington St. One of Hartford's oldest remaining buildings, this one-story, one-room-deep house with a rear ell represents a basic house type popular throughout the 19th century. Its distinguishing features include a front attic gable, interior brick chimney in each gable end, and a five-bay facade fronted by a hip-roofed porch with box posts and match stick railing at the center three bays. Wide post and lintel trim at the main entrance enframes a single door with a patterned pressed glass window and flanking sidelights. Except for the application of aluminum siding and reconstruction of certain porch elements, the house retains all of its original exterior features. The house is believed to have been built for Eliza and C. J. Lawton shortly after they purchased the property in 1868. According to local tradition, the two attic bedrooms were used as boarding rooms for students attending the Hartford Seminary located directly north of the property, which originally extended north to Clay St. After Eliza Lawton's death in 1888, the house passed through four parties before it became the property of Mrs. Josephine Park in 1903. Later, her children inherited the house and lived here until after World War II. (C)
11. Barnett-Foster-Leach House. 237 E. Washington St. The I-House form, turned and sawn elements at the main entrance porch, and good state of preservation render this weatherboarded house a good representative example of a popular basic house type of the late 19th century. The house also displays an interior brick chimney in each gable end, a dentil cornice, and transom and sidelights at the Victorian panelled front door. One-over-one and two-over-one double-hung sashes have

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 7 Old Town Historic District, Hartford, Kentucky

replaced the original four-over-four windows. An early two-story addition with two interior chimneys extends across the rear elevation. The spacious lot includes a large garden plot and a small orchard at the corner of Center and Clay streets which evokes the rural ambiance of early Hartford. Although the picket fence which enclosed the yard has been removed, large hand-hewn sandstones which served as stepping stones from the front to the street remain in the yard.

Eliza Lawton's heirs, who were bequeathed the Lawton-Park House next door, sold this sub-divided parcel in the late 1880s to Dr. and Mrs. J. F. Hendricks who in turn sold it to Hartford Republican editor Col. C. M. Barnett and his wife, for whom this house was built in 1891. In 1899, the Barnetts sold the house to Lavisia and John B. Foster, a merchant in whose family it remained until 1919. The following year, Anna and Charles A. Leach, druggist for McHenry Coal Co. and his uncle's local drug store, purchased the house. Leach's daughter-in-law owns and occupies the house today. (C)

12. Hartford Seminary. 224 E. Center St. (National Register, 1973) In 1839, an act of the General Assembly directed the trustees of the Hartford Academy to convey their 6,000-acre land grant, which they had received through a legislative act in 1820, to the newly organized Hartford Seminary which in turn sold the grant and used the proceeds to have this building erected. The local sentiment that the school, which enrolled students from Hartford and surrounding counties beginning in 1839, was an early public institution due to the source of the building funds (and despite tuition charges) is given credence by the fact that it closed as soon as Hartford built a larger public school in 1880. For more than a century, this building, now Hartford's oldest, has served as a house.

Distinguishing features of the one-story, center passage plan brick building include the hipped roof, molded box cornice and dentil frieze board, six-over-six double-hung sash windows, and crown lintels at the door and windows on the Center St. facade, all characteristic of the Greek Revival style; other windows have simple brick jack arches. The fairly small (28' by 60') one-story, center passage plan brick building is oriented so that its narrow west end faces Center St. and the south elevation addresses Maiden Lane, an alley which bisects the block. The Center St. facade is a principal elevation with a slightly recessed door with panelled reveals and transom to one side and two windows; the Maiden Lane elevation has two doors and two windows sheltered by a modern shed-roofed porch. Conversion to a dwelling entailed the partitioning of the original two large rooms flanking the passage. Mature foliage screens the building, which is in need of repairs. (C)

13. Hartford Methodist Church. 141 E. Center St. Elements such as the three-tiered square corner tower render this Neo-Gothic Revival style building with red pressed brick facades the most architecturally significant church in Hartford.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 8 Old Town Historic District, Hartford, Kentucky

Typical of the style, the building is gable-front with gabled transepts, pointed arched stained glass windows and buttresses. Parapets with stone coping and finials at apex and ends accentuate the four gables. The tower contains the entrance and rises to a columned belfry capped by a steeply pitched, pressed metal clad pyramidal roof. Stone finials also decorate the peak of the tower and its four corner piers which extend beyond the belfry to accent the tower roof-line. The tall building rests on a full basement. Along the west side, a two-story flat-roofed classroom and office wing in matching brick was added in 1953. This is the third church erected by Hartford's Methodists. Little is known of the first building, which was standing in the 1840s according to an 1847 history of Kentucky. The second building was constructed in 1875 on Liberty St. on the lot now occupied by the Assembly of God building. The contractor for the Methodists' current building was Paul Woodard of Hartford; the brick mason was Thomas Smith Marks of Owensboro. (C)

14. Methodist Parsonage. 203 E. Center St. As displayed by this brick-veneered house, the one-and-one-half-story gabled form, deep eaves with exposed rafter ends, and massive tapered box piers on brick plinths at the porch recall the widespread influences of the Craftsman mode throughout the country during the 1920s and 1930s. The Hartford Methodist Church had the house built in 1935 and used it as a parsonage until 1966 when they sold it. (C)
15. Schapmire House. 209 E. Center St. Reminiscent of a Cumberland house in its one-and-one-half-story side-gabled form and four-room plan, this weatherboarded house exhibits Craftsman influences in the tapered box posts on brick plinths at the gable-front porch. The rather austere house displays a bit of decoration in the light colored bricks accenting the red brick gable-end chimney. Printer Freeman Schapmire and his wife had the house built for themselves in 1937; it has been used as rental property since 1948. (C)
16. Walker-Nall-Pirtle House. 223 E. Center St. As indicated by the presence of two brick bonds and the distinctly different styles of the wooden trim used in the upper and lower stories, it appears that two early phases of building yielded this two-story gable-roofed house. At the lower level, the Flemish bond brickwork on the main facade, jack arches above the nine-over-six double-hung sash windows, and fanlight and sidelights at the main entrance -- all characteristics of Federal style architecture -- suggest that the house originated as a one-story, one-room-deep structure between 1810 and 1840. In contrast, despite the use of the same windows, it appears that the upper story dates to the 1850s or 1860s due to the common bond throughout, simple header lintels, bracketed hood-molds at the windows and bracketed cornice with wide frieze board. Interior chimneys project slightly from the gable end walls. Early deeds suggest that the property first underwent development in the 1840s by Richard L. Walker who purchased this and the adjoining lot in 1842 from Elijah and Sarah A. Phipps for

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 9 Old Town Historic District, Hartford, Kentucky

\$300. In 1851, Walker sold the house lot for \$1,000 to John Milton Taylor, who in turn sold it to William W. Miller in 1855. Miller, who owned and operated the Hartford House hotel and operated the local mill on the Rough River, owned the house until 1861 when he sold it to C. A. and Iarkin Nall. It is likely that Taylor, Miller or Nall added the second story in the same brick as the original, but used the brick bond and trim then in fashion. The house passed through numerous owners after the Nalls, who deeded it to their son, William H. Nall, in 1865. Those who owned the house for the longest periods were Delilah Steward and her daughter, Della F. Mosely, who bought the house in 1891 from William H. Nall, and Wayne W. Pirtle, in whose family it remained from 1920 until 1973. During the 1950s, the early one-story rear ell was enlarged with an additional story and modern mechanical systems were installed. The house is similar to the former Hartford Seminary directly across Center St. in its orientation toward Maiden Lane which bisects the block. (C)

17. Mauzy-Woerner-Barrass House. 236 E. Union St. Although the appearance of this house suggests a construction date early in this century, its origins are ante-bellum. Deed research indicates that the house was built by Squire Mauzy, who purchased the lot in 1857. In 1866, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Fred Woerner purchased the house upon moving from Germany via Tell City, Indiana. After the Woerners's deaths, their daughter Stella and her husband, Edward Barrass, acquired the house and around 1918 had it moved back on the lot from its original site close to the corner of Union and Clay streets. When it was moved, the house was placed on its current high foundation and remodelled as an American Foursquare with Craftsman influences, as displayed by the low-pitched hipped roof, exposed rafter ends and brackets in deep eaves, and massive panelled box posts on brick plinths at the front porch. The house also features corner boards and entrance porch and attic dormer gables with applied half timbering. Improvements to interior of the center hall plan house entailed installation of central heat and running water. Mr. Barrass was a successful businessman whose local ventures included a movie theatre on Main St. and a role in the 1904 organization of the Hartford Light and Power Company. Three families have owned the house since the deaths of the Barrasses around 1940. The only significant alteration to the exterior is the recent sheathing of the weatherboards in aluminum siding. (C)

Garage -- This clipped gable-front one-car garage sheathed in weatherboards has a deep shed extension along the north elevation. (C)

Well House -- Four posts decorated with latticework support a hipped roof above a concrete-lined well. (C)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1 Old Town Historic District, Hartford, Kentucky

Originally the county stretched north to the Ohio River, for which it was named, and was approximately 1,500 square miles, comprising all of the present counties of Ohio and Daviess and parts of the present Hancock, Henderson, McLean, Butler, Grayson and Breckinridge counties. The first county court, held July 2, 1799 in a private home near the settlement of Hartford, designated the town as the county seat. Of the 29 municipalities recorded in present-day Kentucky, Hartford, with 74 citizens, was ranked by the United States Census of 1800 as the third-largest in the western region, surpassed only by Henderson and Russellville. In 1808, it became the third Western Kentucky town to incorporate, following Hardinsburg and Hopkinsville in 1804. Hartford was not officially mapped until 1816, however, when a plat was recorded showing the legal boundaries to be the same as those of the parcel conveyed as a gift to the county court by Madison on November 2, 1799. The donated parcel provided a four-acre public square for the county seat and surrounding streets and alleys. Apparently, Gabriel Madison sold individual building lots directly to private individuals, who numbered around 100 at the time of incorporation.

According to local historian McDowell A. Fogle, in 1808 Hartford had approximately thirty log and frame buildings, of which about twenty were residences. The rest were businesses, primarily on both sides of Main Street (then Market Street) between Union and Center Streets. Fogle also located businesses to the north on Clay St., including the general merchandise store of Richard Elliott in a two-story frame building at the corner of Union St., and ferry landings on the Rough River at the end of Main and Clay Streets. During the 1820s, the building occupied by Elliott's store also housed the post office and the local branch of the Frankfort, Kentucky-based Bank of the Commonwealth, the town's first financial institution. There is no evidence of a church in Hartford until the Methodists organized in 1811, although they and other denominations had organized out in the county at the turn of the century. None of Hartford's earliest buildings has been preserved.

Hartford and the rest of Ohio County remained sparsely settled throughout the first half of the nineteenth century. Most of the county's residents relied upon agriculture, hunting, trapping and the area's rich timber resources for their livelihoods. The primary crops were corn and tobacco which, with livestock, animal pelts and surplus cured meats, were traded in Hartford and the county's other settlements or shipped from Hartford, in part via the Rough River, to larger markets -- initially Bardstown and Lexington and then more frequently to sizeable towns on the Ohio River -- from which they got their supplies of merchandise. After navigational improvements to Rough River were completed in 1834, the shipping of tobacco to Ohio River markets became more profitable. Many farmers made their own cigars which they sold by the thousand; they shipped the rest of their tobacco in hogsheads for sale in Louisville and New Orleans.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 2 Old Town Historic District, Hartford, Kentucky

Hartford's development as a commercial center of the county, tied to the town's location on Rough River and its designation as the county seat, led to growth in housing, religious and educational institutions, in addition to the establishment of new businesses. Northeast and southwest of the developing central business district focused on the courthouse square and Main St., dozens of building lots recorded in the 1816 plat were improved with houses. Most of the houses were of log or frame construction, of which none have survived, but at least one and perhaps more were brick, as represented by the Walker-Nall-Pirtle House, the only positively identified antebellum house remaining in the Old Town Historic District and all of Hartford. The Federal style elements of its initial, 1840s building phase indicates a conservatism, perhaps dictated as much by taste as means, which remained manifest in Hartford's built environment to the present. When enlarged in the 1850s or 1860s, the Italianate detailing was fashionable, yet even this was restrained and the overall configuration that of a traditional basic house type. Although the appearance of the Methodist church (perhaps not built until the 1840s when the first definite reference to it was made) is unknown, the Hartford Seminary, a modest one-story brick building with fashionable Greek Revival elements, survives in the Old Town Historic District.

Before this school was built in 1839, Ohio County had been served, apparently sporadically, by small private academies. According to Harrison D. Taylor, who wrote the county's first history in the mid 1800s, James Shanks taught the first school beginning in 1792 in a small log building and Daniel Barry, who was appointed Ohio County Circuit Clerk in 1802, was Hartford's second teacher. It is not known if Barry used Shanks's building, which may have been the log academy on the courthouse square mentioned in certain early documents. How Hartford's educational needs were met for much of the first half of the nineteenth century, until Hartford Seminary opened, is uncertain. In 1798, Hartford Academy was established by a legislative act which authorized each county to open such a school with an endowment of 5,000 acres. The first local holdings of the Academy consisted of a lot at the corner of Union and Clay Streets conveyed to the trustees in 1805, but there is no record of a school building having been erected here. A legislative act named a new set of Academy trustees in 1820 and authorized them to "enter" 6,000 acres east of the Tennessee River, but the trustees' subsequent actions are unknown. Another act, passed in 1839, directed the trustees to convey the land grant to the newly organized Hartford Seminary, which in turn sold the land and used the proceeds to have the brick building on Center Street erected. Although tuition was charged, this school is viewed by many as the town's first public school because the building funds came from the sale of land given by the state. The school's high standards and excellent reputation throughout the region lent prominence to its small town for many decades.

Like most of Kentucky, Ohio County suffered economic deprivation throughout much of the Civil War. Although no major battles were fought here, there were many guerrilla raids. The most destructive incident of the war occurred in Hartford in 1864 when Confederate General H. B. Lyon burned the courthouse during a campaign across Western Kentucky. Post-war recovery appears to have gotten underway fairly quickly. By the late 1860s, new construction extended to the residential neighbor-

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 3 Old Town Historic District, Hartford, Kentucky

hoods, as indicated by the Lawton-Park House built in 1868 on E. Washington St. in the Old Town district. Its standard one-story, one-room-deep form and lack of decorative exterior features suggests the endurance of local antebellum building traditions probably tempered by the slow pace of the return to pre-war prosperity.

According to Collins in his History of Kentucky, Hartford in the early 1870s had a population of around 400, two churches, six lawyers, six physicians, two taverns, fifteen stores, and ten mechanics shops. The town's return to economic health was hastened by two interrelated developments that ensured the area's growth for the next several decades -- the construction of the Louisville, Elizabethtown and Paducah Railroad through Ohio County in 1871 and the rapid expansion of coal mining in Ohio and neighboring counties. In contrast to most of the state's rail lines which ran north-south, the new railroad was part of the first east-west system outside the Louisville area which more effectively linked Kentucky's principal cities. When the first, wood burning locomotives arrived, former local Congressman Henry D. McHenry, the first to have invested heavily in the county's coal resources, successfully demonstrated to his friend and business associate, railroad owner Collis P. Huntington, that coal as a railroad fuel was superior to wood. The railroad's conversion to coal-burning locomotives ensured the quick and extensive development of the area's coal fields, which thus far had been disappointing.

Unfortunately for Hartford, the county's first railroad was routed through the town of Beaver Dam five miles to the south. Although the rewards certainly would have been greater had the line gone to Hartford, the county seat nevertheless benefited from the railroad's proximity and the boost it gave to the area's coal mining and other industries. During the 1880s, 1890s and 1900s, county financiers opened three new banks in Hartford as local businesses prospered and a healthy tobacco market yielded the Hartford Tobacco Warehouse in 1899. The two-story brick Hartford College built in 1880 (immediately northwest of the district and no longer standing), the town's first truly public school, succeeded Hartford Seminary and continued to meet the high standards for which it had become known throughout the region. Many parcels, including three in the Old Town Historic District, were developed with simple one- and two-story wooden houses displaying a limited amount of standard millwork and Victorian stained glass windows in keeping with the prevailing architectural styles of the day. The district's one-story Anderson-Tappan House of 1895 makes a clear reference to the Queen Anne style in its asymmetrical form and two-story tower with a pyramidal roof and sheathing of fishscale shingles. This house is the most fanciful in the district and one of the very few intact examples of Hartford's small number of distinctive Victorian dwellings.

By 1900, Hartford had grown to 785 inhabitants. As a county seat, it had maintained its dual role as civic center and area market serving both its own citizens and those drawn to town on legal matters. Much of the town's merchandise arrived from wholesale houses in Evansville via a steamboat packet line operating on the Rough River and the remainder came by wagon from the rail depot at Beaver Dam. Approximately thirty retail firms were operating in Hartford, as well as three

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 4 Old Town Historic District, Hartford, Kentucky

hotels, two newspapers and several small industries including a sawmill and lumber yard, three blacksmithing and woodworking shops, a job printing business and the tobacco warehouse.

The early 1900s saw continued prosperity in Hartford with an increase in population to more than 1,000 by 1910, major improvements in public services and, at last, a rail line. According to an article in a special "Industrial, Historical and Illustrated" issue of The Hartford Republican published in 1911, the town was proud of its electricity, water works, and four miles of sewerage recently completed throughout within the city limits. "These three advantages . . . are rarely found in a city the size of Hartford, and are an index of the progressiveness of our citizens." Just a few months prior to the publication of the special newspaper edition, thirty-five years of efforts by Hartford's leaders to promote a branch line to the county seat had finally succeeded when the Louisville & Nashville Railroad completed the Madisonville, Hartford & Eastern branch line through Hartford from Ellmitch to Earlington in neighboring Hopkins County in order to provide a more direct route between the Western Kentucky coal fields and Louisville. As a result, the smaller commercial district on Clay St., in close proximity to the depot, was rejuvenated with the construction of three buildings to house Likens and Acton General Merchandise, E. E. Ellis' Cash Produce House and Schlemmer Bakery. These stores epitomized wooden commercial buildings of the period in their gable-front roofs with simple false parapets and storefronts with transoms, panelled bulkheads beneath plate glass display windows, and central recessed entrances. Today, when few of this type of commercial building survive in Kentucky's county seats, it is noteworthy that two in the district remain in use and intact, except for the loss at an early date of their parapets.

The spate of new building prompted by the arrival of the railroad did not end with the commercial buildings. During the 1910s and into the 1920s it extended to the construction of new houses and churches, as reflected today by the Old Town Historic District. In 1914, Hartford joined the mainstream of small towns across the country with the completion of the Neo-Gothic Revival Hartford Methodist Church, which exemplifies its style through such features as the prominent three-stage corner tower, pointed arched windows and gabled parapets. Two blocks away, the thorough remodelling in 1918 of the Mauzy-Woerner-Barrass House in a mode currently being popularized by builders' guides and house and garden magazines yielded an American Foursquare with Craftsman styling. Beginning in the mid 1920s, the weakening national economy was felt locally as businesses failed and new construction came to a standstill. A decade later, however, an influx of New Deal funding prompted the resumption of local private investments. While plans were made for a new courthouse, street paving and other public services, Hartford businessmen had commercial buildings erected on Main St. and the pace of residential construction quickened. Modest scale and little if any decoration reflected the gradual pace of economic recovery, as exhibited by the Methodist Parsonage and Schapmire House on E. Center St. and the narrow gable-front houses on Clay St.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5 Old Town Historic District, Hartford, Kentucky

Throughout the first four decades of the twentieth century, Hartford's chief pride remained its schools and role as county seat, reflected by the number of educators, attorneys and other professionals living in the town center. Several of these community leaders, such as attorney S. A. Anderson, lived in the Old Town Historic District. The neighborhood also was home to many businessmen, including newspaper editor C. M. Barnett, lumberman W. J. Bean, entrepreneur Edward Barrass, druggist Charles A. Leach, merchants T. R. Barnard and John B. Foster, jeweler and optician J. B. Tappan, funeral director and freight line operator E. E. Birkhead, and printer Freeman Schapmire. Numerous district residents also held public office, including Edward Barrass who was Circuit Court Clerk from 1904 into the 1910s, and W. J. Bean and T. R. Barnard who served as a city councilmen around 1910.

Despite renewed development at the close of the 1930s, the Old Town Historic District continued to reflect Hartford's role as the heart of a predominantly rural county. Today, as throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the district retains sizable parcels cultivated as vegetable gardens and orchards, interspersed among a broad range of building types and styles that represent the community's architectural and socio-economic history.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 1 Old Town Historic District, Hartford, Kentucky

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1 Old Town Historic District, Hartford, Kentucky

Verbal Boundary Description (Continued)

Beginning at the south corner of block 12, lot 8, follow the northeast side of Clay St. approximately 30 feet and cross Clay St. to a point in the northeast line of block 15, lot 7 that is approximately 40 feet southeast of that parcel's north corner. Proceed to the southwest along the northeast side of a parking area, which is parallel to the southeast side of E. Washington St., across lots 7 and 6 of block 15 to the northeast line of lot 5, block 15. Follow the northeast, southeast and southwest lines of lot 5 to the east corner of block 15, lot 4 and follow the southeast, southwest and northwest lines of lot 4 to its north corner. Cross E. Washington St. to the south corner of block 14, lot 2 and continue along the southwest lines of lots 2 and 6 to the west corner of block 14, lot 6. Cross E. Center St. to the south corner of block 13, lot 2 and follow the northwest side of E. Center St. in a southwesterly direction to the south corner of block 13, lot 1. Then follow the southwest, northwest and northeast lines of block 35, lot 1 to a point directly opposite the west corner of block 13, lot 5 and cross Liberty St. to that west corner. Continue in a northeasterly direction along the northwest lines of block 13, lots 5, 4 and 3A to a point in the southwest line of block 13, lot 2. Then follow the southwest line of lot 2 in a northwesterly direction approximately 25 feet to the south corner of a noncontributing garage. Turn 90 degrees to the northeast and proceed in a straight line across block 13, lot 2 to the southwest line of block 13, lot 1. Proceed along the southwest, northwest and northeast lines of lot 1 to a point directly opposite the west corner of block 12, lot 14 and cross Clay St. to that west corner. Follow the northwest line of lot 14 and the northeast lines of lot 14 and 13 to the east corner of block 12, lot 13, which is in the northwest line of block 12, lot 12. Then continue along the northwest line of block 12, lot 12 and the northeast lines of block 12, lots 12, 11, and 10 to the east corner of lot 10. Proceed along the east lines of block 12, lots 9 and 8 in a southerly direction to the point of beginning.

Verbal Boundary Justification (Continued)

National Register integrity criteria or are less than 50 years old. Only those portions of block 15, lots 6 and 7 along the right-of-way of E. Washington St. are included because they contain greenspace and mature hardwoods that contribute to the historic character of the corridor; the boundary is drawn to omit the remainder of those lots, which recently have been acquired by the City of Hartford and redeveloped with an apartment complex.



OLD TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT

Property Identification Map
CITY OF
HARTFORD

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number Photos Page 1 Old Town Historic District, Hartford, Kentucky

The following information applies to all of the photographs:

- 1) Old Town Historic District
 - 2) Hartford, Kentucky
 - 3) C. R. Brown
 - 4) July 1987
 - 5) Kentucky Heritage Council
-
- (1) 1) South corner of Clay and E. Washington Streets
6) to the south
 - (2) 1) Anderson-Tappan House (entry 9), 226 E. Washington St.
6) to the southeast
 - (3) 1) Southeast side of E. Washington St. (Bean House (8), to left)
6) to the south
 - (4) 1) Northwest side of E. Washington St. (Barnett-Foster-Leach House (11), to right)
6) to the west
 - (5) 1) Barnett-Foster-Leach House (11), 237 E. Washington St.
6) to the northwest
 - (6) 1) Lewton-Park House (10), 223 E. Washington St.
6) to the north
 - (7) 1) Hartford Methodist Church (13), 141 E. Center St.
6) to the northwest
 - (8) 1) Northwest side of E. Center St.
6) to the northeast
 - (9) 1) Methodist Parsonage (14), 203 E. Center St., left; and Schapmire House (15), 209 E. Center St.
6) to the north
 - (10) 1) Miller-Nall-Pirtle House (16), 223 E. Center St.
6) to the northeast
 - (11) 1) Hartford Seminary (12), 224 E. Center St.
6) to the east

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number Photos Page 2 Old Town Historic District, Hartford, Kentucky

- (12) 1) Hartford Tobacco Warehouse (5), 313 Clay St.
6) to the east

- (13) 1) Schlemmer Bakery (3), 321 Clay St., left; Cash Produce House (2), 323 Clay St.; and Likens & Acton General Merchandise (1), 403 Clay St.
6) to the east

- (14) 1) 217 Clay St. (6), right; and 213 Clay St. (7)
6) to the north

- (15) 1) Mauzy-Woerner-Barrass House (17), 236 E. Union St.
6) to the south

Please note that photographs 2 and 14 are submitted as supplementary views of district properties since they were printed without borders.